

### REMARKS

The above amendments to the above-captioned application along with the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated April 6, 2004. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to give due reconsideration to this application, to indicate the allowability of the claims, and to pass this case to issue.

#### Status of the Claims

As outlined above, claims 1, 6, 13 and 16 are being cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 2, 7, and 18 are being amended to correct formal errors and to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject invention. Applicants hereby submit that no new matter is being introduced into the application through the submission of this response.

#### Allowable subject Matters

Claims 12, 14-15, and 17-18 were allowed, and claims 2-5, 7-11 would be allowed if they are rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As claims 2 and 7 are being rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, it is submitted that they and their dependent claims 3-5 and 8-11 are in condition for allowance.

#### Prior Art Rejections

Claims 1, 6, 13 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Miyamoto et al. (6,429,719). As claims 1, 6, 13 and 16 are being cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, this rejection thus becomes moot.

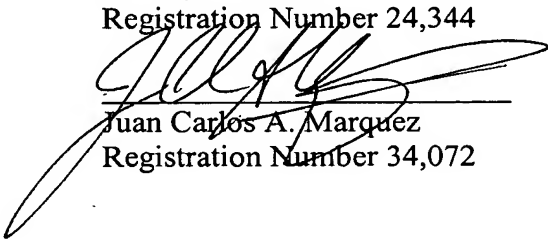
#### Conclusion

In view of all the above, Applicants respectfully submit that certain clear and distinct differences as discussed exist between the present invention as now claimed and the prior art references upon which the rejections in the Office Action rely. These differences are more than sufficient that the present invention as now claimed would not have been anticipated nor rendered obvious given the prior art. Rather, the present invention as a whole is distinguishable, and thereby allowable over the prior art.

Favorable reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding issues requiring discussion that would further the prosecution and allowance of the above-captioned application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative at the address and phone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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SPF/JCM/JT